

From: [Butterfield Capt Joseph A](#)
To: ["haltman@militarytimes.com"](mailto:haltman@militarytimes.com); ["ascott@militarytimes.com"](mailto:ascott@militarytimes.com)
Cc: [On The Record](#)
Subject: Request for Article Removal
Date: Wednesday, November 13, 2019 9:09:00 AM

Good morning Military Times colleagues,

We are writing to you in regards to the following article by Mr. Philip Athey:
<https://www.marinecorpstimes.com/news/your-marine-corps/2019/11/12/sexual-photos-and-videos-from-a-marines-paid-site-allegedly-spread-around-camp-wilson/>

It is our understanding from screenshots posted on social media that the Marine named in the article requested anonymity, but was told that because she had already tweeted about the matter that anonymity would not be given. We understand that the timeline with this interview may have been different than is customary when requesting to be an anonymous source (i.e. she may have given the interview and then requested anonymity after the fact), but we do not believe that you can reasonably expect a service member who is unacquainted with the process for requesting anonymity to request it in the typical manner.

HQMC Communication Directorate is reaching out to formally request you remove the article. We understand you have likely deliberated this since yesterday evening, but we wanted to make our stance clear in how our Marines are approached by and ultimately treated by your agency. Regardless of the situation, we believe your article unjustifiably placed one of our Marines in a position that only served to exacerbate the backlash that she was already dealing with. Out of respect for her request, we implore you to reconsider removing the article. We believe we have enjoyed a healthy relationship with your organization in recent years, and we hope to continue that relationship. Regardless of how you engage with our Marines, either officially or unofficially, we believe they should be treated with respect and dignity.

Please feel free to call to discuss, and thank you for your consideration.

Very Respectfully,

Capt Joseph Butterfield
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Communication Directorate
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